

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL: OPORTO REMAINS FOCAL POINT OF DEMONSTRATIONS

BY THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 8, RADICAL SOLDIERS ORGANIZATION (SUV) DEMONSTRATORS REMAINED IN CONTROL OF AN ARTILLERY REGIMENT NEAR OPORTO AND CLAIMED THE SUPPORT OF OVER A DOZEN NORTHERN UNITS. THE SOLDIERS WERE JOINED BY VICTORIOUS REMNANTS OF THE OPORTO METALWORKERS DEMONSTRATION, WHO, ON OCTOBER 7, SUCCEEDED IN PRESSURING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LABOR CURTO INTO CONCEDED A WAGE INCREASE PREVIOUSLY GRANTED BY THE FIFTH GOVERNMENT. THE THREE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES BLAMED EACH OTHER FOR THE CHAOTIC SITUATION.

EMBASSY OBSERVATIONS:

--THE SUV OCCUPATION IS THE MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGE NORTHERN REGION COMMANDER VELOSO HAS FACED. IF HE RESORTS TO FORCE TO END THE OCCUPATION, IT COULD FOR THE FIRST
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TIME LEAD TO A DIRECT PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN

MILITARY UNITS.

--THE OPORTO METALWORKERS DEMONSTRATION PROBABLY ENHANCED THE CHANCES OF THE INCUMBENT PRO-COMMUNIST SLATE IN THE FEDERATION ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 11 AND

IS INDICATIVE OF THE MORE MILITANT ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLICIES CURRENTLY BEING PUSHED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

--EVENTS IN MADEIRA INDICATE THAT THE LEFT, ESPECIALLY THE EXTREME LEFT, IS WELL ESTABLISHED IN KEY AREAS AND HAS BEEN ABLE, DESPITE ITS SMALL NUMBERS, TO EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF LOCAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 5959; 5957, 10/8.)

2. VIETNAM REFUGEES: DRV REPRESENTATIVE REJECTS UNILATERAL USG ACTION

THE CHIEF OF THE DRV OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN GENEVA TOLD THE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 7 THAT THE USG COULD NOT SETTLE THE MATTER OF THE VIETNAMESE REPATRIATES UNILATERALLY AND WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL CONSEQUENCES. HE STATED FURTHER THAT:

--THE PRG HAD MANY MAJOR PROBLEMS TO SETTLE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR BEFORE IT COULD CONCENTRATE ON REPATRIATION.

--THE SOLUTION WILL BE WORKED OUT ON A PROGRESSIVE BASIS AND THE PRG WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR REPATRIATION IN ITS OWN GOOD TIME. (CONFIDENTIAL) US MISSION GENEVA 7683, 10/8.)

3. ETHIOPIANS CRACKING DOWN ON DISSIDENTS

IN THE WAKE OF THE BOMBING OF THE ADDIS ABABA TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUILDING, THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS LAUNCHED A WAVE OF ARRESTS OF DISSIDENTS OF ALL POLITICAL STRIPES, FROM ERI-TREANS TO AMHARANS, AND REPORTEDLY INCLUDING THREE MEMBERS OF THE DIRG.

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--THE DIRG IS ALSO CLAMPING DOWN ON WORKERS INVOLVED IN A RECENT SPATE OF WORK STOPPAGES.

--THERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED REPORTS OF RESISTANCE TO THE ARRESTS; MILITARY AND POLICE ARE "JITTERY" AND TRIGGER HAPPY, ADDING TO THE TENSION. (CONFIDENTIAL) ADDIS ABABA 11986, 10/8.)

4. KUWAIT SHOPPING FOR US TANKS?

EMBASSY KUWAIT REPORTS THAT UK-KUWAITI NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PURCHASE OF THE CHIEFTAIN TANK HAVE COLLAPSED, AND THE KUWAITIS MAY NOW TURN TO THE US. MEANWHILE, THE KUWAITI PRESS IS REPORTING THAT A SOVIET ARMS TEAM WILL VISIT THE COUNTRY LATER THIS MONTH. (CONFIDENTIAL) KUWAIT 4074, 10/8.)

5. MEXICO'S ECHEVERRIA BLOWS HIS CHANCES FOR UNSYG

USUN REPORTS THAT THE REACTION AMONG THE LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS TO MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDER SPANISH EXECUTIONS IS THAT HE HAS DONE GRAVE HARM TO HIS DESIGNS AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP. SOME COMMENTED THAT THE ACTION WAS A "DIGNIFIED WAY OF COMMITTING HARI-KARI," WHILE OTHERS REFERRED TO ECHEVERRIA AS THE "EX-CANDIDATE." SPECULATION CONTINUES ABOUT WHAT MOTIVATED ECHEVERRIA TO TAKE THE ILL-CONCEIVED MOVE. (CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 4844, 10/8.)
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